

I find this debate very interesting. There are several issues revolving around local content on satellite radio.

1. If we allow for pure competition (similar to how the FCC has allowed satellite TV to compete against cable to include what could be considered anti-trust agreements between Direct TV and the NFL by locking down content without making it fairly available to cable) then satellite radio should compete with local stations however it can feasibly do so...without breaking anti-trust legislation.

2. Local radio stations don't fear local content...they fear local advertising that could be locally inserted in satellite's local content by utilizing local repeaters to insert ads.

3. The carriage of local signals and/or content has been encouraged by the FCC as it relates to satellite television. Why the flip flop with radio?

4. The major issue I have is that satellite or cable services of any kind work on a capitalistic model. We pay to deliver services that the customer is willing to pay for...while broadcast radio or television has for years worked on the most beautiful model of all...free distribution. If the broadcasters ever had to pay for their bandwidth the way satellite or cable paid for theirs (by laying cable or putting birds in the atmosphere), broadcast as we know it would have very few stations.

The FCC has allowed broadcast tv and radio to make allot of money for decades by providing them free distribution. Provide a little local content supported by local advertising and wholla....what a great model! The model is in jeopardy due to competition. LET THE CONSUMER CHOOSE!

I became a XM subscriber because of the choice. Local radio has formats with nothing but advertisement after advertisement...same with broadcast TV. Between my XM radio in the car and my DMX radio on cable television...I get great music and news without listening to all the local GARBAGE! If XM can provide local traffic or news in a clean fashion...so be it..let them do so!